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P A P E R

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P O L I T E A R T S.

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IN the fourth Volume of these Transactions, page 144, a Description is given, with a Plate annexed, of a Machine invented by Mr. Grenville for teaching Blind Persons the Rules of Arithmetic; and in the fifth Volume, page 125, is given a Description, with a Plate of Mr. Cheefe's Machine for teaching Blind Persons Music. This year a portable Machine, called a Pocket Memorandum Book, for the Use of Persons deprived of Sight, was produced to the Society by Mr. ROBERT BROMLEY, the Inventor; to whom the SILVER MEDAL was voted: and one of the Machines is reserved in the Society's Repository for the use of the Public.

DESCRIPTION

DESCRIPTION *of the* POCKET
MEMORANDUM BOOK, *in-*
vented by Mr. BROMLEY, for the Use
of Persons deprived of their Eye-Sight.

THIS machine represents a box nine inches long and six inches wide, and, when shut, one inch and a half deep.

When it is opened, (which is done by putting the end of a watch-key into a small hole, at the end near the opening, and pushing back the spring),

The right division is appropriated to the regular arrangement of the alphabet; and on the nine lines within it are various pins, having heads of different forms, by which the Blind Person is enabled to distinguish them; and thus they serve as letters or figures, as may be required, each line containing three letters. The first part of the upper line contains several pins representing the letter A; the second, several representing
B;

B; the third, several representing C:—the first part of the second line, several representing D; the second, several representing E; the third, several representing F—and so on; allowing to each line three letters to the end of the alphabet, which finishes in the middle division of the ninth or bottom line; the third part of which line is filled up with dots or points, which I make use of for various purposes; for instance, an apostrophe in writing, and a cypher in arithmetic. And to reduce the book to a proper size for the pocket, instead of forming different characters for figures (which would have required a greater number of lines), I make use of the letters which form the word TUNBRIDGE: besides these, I have arranged on a loose line a single alphabet, with letters written under each character, which explains them very clearly.

The eight lines in the left division of the Book, serve for fixing the pins upon in writing, working sums in arithmetic, &c.

But

But when it is used for the latter, as it is necessary to form columns for the different rules, they are easily done by the wires, which are bent at each end; for which purpose observe the small holes in the upper and lower edge of this division, which are exactly opposite each other: these are intended to receive the feet of the wires, and, if put straight in, will form right lines across the others, placing them at a greater or less distance as the different rules require; and these will guide in the regular distribution of the figures.

ROBERT BROMLEY.

PAPERS